



RICHARD F. ALLEN
COMMISSIONER



2009

H A P P Y V A L E N T I N E S D A Y ! ! ! ! !

Reentry and Pre Release Newsletter



Looking for a certified substance abuse treatment facility?

Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

The Substance Abuse Services Division of the Alabama Department Health and Mental Retardation certifies substance abuse treatment facilities throughout the state. We certify many levels of care such as Intensive Outpatient Programs, Residential Rehabilitation Program etc. We do not certify transitional facilities. If you are looking for substance abuse treatment services in your area visit the Alabama Department of Mental Health website at www.mh.alabama.gov

In order to enter into a substance abuse treatment facility you will need to have a psychosocial assessment conducted. You will need work with the prison to help you obtain an psychosocial assessment you must have an assessment completed indicating a diagnostic impression of a substance abuse disorder and the recommended level of care. Once the substance abuse agency reviews the assessment the referring agency is notified of acceptance or denial. The referring agency is also asked to send a discharge summary of your substance abuse treatment.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is committed to helping anyone who meets the criteria for services.

Submitted by:

Kathy Seifried, Director – Office of Certification and Training

Institutional Pre Release and Reentry Programs

We are now in the second year of coordinating targeted pre release services at institutions and work release centers. Many prison facilities throughout the State are offering transitional and reentry services for inmates who are soon to be released and many ex-offenders who have reentered the community. Pre release programs are coordinated to provide life enrichment modules and linkages to statewide community resources. Information is provided on addiction and recovery, faith/communication and character building skills, family reunification, job search and financial management, law enforcement and health education. Community resources are provided to multiple government agencies, social service agencies and faith based groups. If you are within 30 – 90 days of release, you will be contacted regarding your interest in participating in the Pre Release Program. If you are interested in accessing information on community and transitional resources, please see your Institutional Reentry Designee.

Pre Release and Reentry Criteria for Participation

EOS Inmate Probationers Parole Candidates SRP Candidates

If you meet this criteria and are interested in learning about reentry services, please see your Institutional Reentry Designee.



Effective Reentry at the Red Eagle Work Center



The Red Eagle Work Center implemented its Re-Entry/Pre-Release Program on June 23, 2008. As of December 2008, Red Eagle has graduated 152 inmates.

Numerous inmates have expressed their gratitude toward the Alabama Department of Corrections for offering a program that can actually assist them with their transition from prison. Inmate Michael Rhoden (AIS# 175085), a September 2008 Re-Entry graduate, created a portfolio of his numerous program completions which he is confident will aid him in his pursuit of gainful employment upon his release from prison. Inmate Billy Ray Jones (AIS# 151196C), an October 2008 Re-Entry graduate, reported that he plans to complete his trade in Auto Body Paint and Repair when he returns to Madison County.

A multitude of government agencies have been very responsive to our requests to share information with our inmate population. Mr. Carl Nowell, State supervisor, with the Department of Rehabilitation Services encourages participation by demonstrating how each person communicates differently.

Sgt. Steve Searcy with the Montgomery Police Department spoke with the Re-Entry inmates about domestic violence. He explained the laws regarding domestic violence and how inmates, in particular, are affected by those laws. Sgt. Searcy referred us to the E.V.E.N Program Coordinator, Ms. Dena Sabb, who shares various techniques to aid inmates in avoiding volatile situations.

Sgt. Meltony Billie, Army Recruiter with the U.S. Army, has been very helpful in sharing the enlistment requirements of the U.S. Army. Red Eagle is hopeful to have its first Re-Entry graduate military enlistment within the next few weeks.

Ms. Brinda Barrett, CareerLink Coordinator, with the Montgomery Career Center does an excellent job of informing the Re-Entry inmates about the importance of preparing themselves for finding and securing employment.

The Re-Entry/Pre-Release Program at Red Eagle has grown significantly over the last six months. Chaplain Noles is very instrumental in sharing information on the Addictions and Recovery and Job, Career and Financial Skills Modules. Sgt. Lena Shepherd and Officer Debra Holmes have each participated in the Re-Entry/Pre-Release Program to provide assistance with the Family Re-Integration Module. Their participation is a testament to the fact that successful re-entry requires resources in and out of the prison system. By providing the inmate population with a "road map to success", the Re-Entry/Pre-Release Program is a great start in reducing the recidivism rate and helping rebuild Alabama families and communities.

*By Aletha Lewis,
Classification Specialist and
Institutional Re-Entry Coordinator*





Re-Entry Veterans 2008 Ventress Correctional Facility

Ventress Correctional Facility recently held a Veteran's Re-entry Program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Jamison Harrell was the guest speaker at this event. It was a nasty, rainy day but over 30 inmates came to appease their curiosity.

Mr. Harrell began his presentation and it appeared that the audience was not too enthused by the background information. However, things came to life when Mr. Harrell spoke of the number of veterans that were being released without any transitional housing, medical care, psychiatric services and vocational rehabilitation.

Inmates were informed of the number of services available to include: Pre-release services to help veterans re-enter their communities; Post release linkage to residential programs to help incarcerated veterans find housing; Scheduling of compensation and pension exams to ensure that the process of restoring veteran's benefits begins immediately upon release.

With this new information in hand, inmates appeared very eager to take action and use available resources to assist them in transitioning back into society. This was evident when an inmate approached me days later and stated "I never knew that there was so much help out there for me." I believe that says it all. Getting information into the hands of people who need it, that is what re-entry is about.

Submitted by:
**Mr. Ezzie Woods, Classification Specialist and
Institutional Reentry Designee**



February Pre Release Dates

Institution	Reentry Designee	Dates
Elmore	Ms. Martin and Mr. Thomas	Feb. 12-20
Donaldson	Dr. Allen and Mr. Rountree	Feb. 9 – 13, 16-20, 23
Fountain	Ms. Pearson	Feb. 9 – 20
J.O. Davis	Mr. Earnshaw	Feb. 9 - 20
Staton	Mr. Bivins and Mr. Minard	Feb. 18-20, 23, 24
Decatur	Mr. Cummings	Feb. 20, 21, 27, 28
Draper	Dr. Thompkins	Feb. 20, 21, 27, 28
Bibb County	Ms. Richardson	Feb. 17 – 19, 23, 25
Red Eagle	Ms. Lewis	Feb. 23 – 27
Limestone	Mr. Smith	Feb. 23 – 26
Tutwiler	Ms. Haynes	Feb. 23 – 27
Kilby	Mr. Gandy and Ms. Miles	Feb. 2 – 5, 27
Mobile Work Release	Mr. Shavers	Feb. 3, 5
Easterling	Mr. Mitchell	Feb. 6 – 20
Elba	Lt. Qualls and Capt. Holland	Feb. 27
Hamilton	Ms. Day	Feb. 1, 2,-6, 9-20
Hamilton A&I	Ms. Day	Feb. 9-20
Loxley	Mr. Robitaille	Feb. 4, 9-12, 16-18
Ventress	Mr. Woods	Feb. 9 - 11
Atmore	Ms. Bennett	Feb. 9 – 12, 16 - 19
Holman	Mr. Holbrook	Feb. 4 – 27
Alex City	Ms. Phillips	Feb. 5, 11, 12. 18
Montgomery Community Based Institution	Ms. Crenshaw	
Childersburg	Ms. Hand	
Birmingham WR	Ms. Moore	
Camden	Sgt. Dodds	
Bullock County	Dr. Lancaster	
St. Clair	Mr. Douglas	
Cattle Ranch	Vacant	

For assistance with transitional services and resources after release, please contact the CPR Network. See your Institutional Reentry Designee to obtain the contact information for your CPR County Representative.



ALABAMA SENIOR^{Rx}
Lee Sanders, Special Projects Program Coordinator
Aging Programs Division - Alabama Department of Senior Services
1-800-AGE-LINE (1-800-243-5463).



The Alabama **SenioRx**: Partnership for Medication Access Program provides assistance for senior citizens with chronic medical conditions who have no prescription insurance coverage and limited financial means to apply for drug assistance programs provided by pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The vision for this initiative is to promote the independence and dignity of those we serve through a comprehensive, coordinated system of quality services hat address the medication needs of Alabama senior citizens.

To qualify for free prescription drugs through **SenioRx**, individuals must be at least 55 years of age with chronic medical conditions, be deemed disabled by Social Security and in the 24-month waiting period, have no prescription drug coverage, be a legal resident of the State of Alabama, and their annual household income must be less than \$21,660.00 for one person and less than \$29,140.00 for two people.



Do I have a Plan when I Leave Prison? (Part 2 of 2)

Last month you learned what a Recidivist is and how you do **NOT** want to be one !!! This month, we will continue to build on the tips you received last month.

Set your expectations HIGH! You can do it!

1. Be honest with yourself about your sins, your addictions and the help that you need, then ask your Creator and others to help you. **YOU MUST BE SINCERE.** A good test of sincerity is when your head hits the pillow at bedtime, can you tell your Creator: "I have been honest with my feelings and words with myself, my family, fellow prisoners and ADOC Correctional Officers".
2. **Forgive** yourself first, and then **forgive** others for any wrongdoing caused by you.
3. **Apologize to your family and friends** because of the hurt you have caused them being incarcerated. Be patient with them and do not demand anything from them.
4. After family and friends know that you are sincere about making a change:
 - a. **ALWAYS THANK THEM** for helping you (They do not have to help you!)
 - b. Ask them to help you type up a job resume for you.
 - c. Ask them to help you do research on employers who are willing to hire ex-offenders.
 - d. Ask them to help you do Internet and Yellow Pages searches on lining up for reentry services, such as a place of worship to your liking, housing, food, clothing, transportation, drug/alcohol rehab, education, potential job opportunities, medical and dental care....
 - e. Ask them to help you find a **mentor** who can mentor you while you're in prison and after you leave prison.
 - f. If you are a **VETERAN**:
 1. First of all, thank you for your service to our country
 2. Ask family and/or friends to line up Veterans Benefits for you by sending an E-mail to Varanese.Cousan@va.gov or Harell.Jamison@va.gov
 - g. **REMEMBER, your ultimate goal is to be independent and crime free**, so look at all of these services as temporary to get you back on your feet again.
5. **Always be on the lookout for a job**, no matter how small. Part-time work is better than no-time work. Volunteer your services to others – this will help you build relationships and show others what a good worker you are. **Be persistent** in your job search; **send thank you letters** after each interview.
6. When you leave prison, surround yourself with successful law-abiding people. **Avoid negative, crime-ridden people** and drug prone hangouts. You may have to live in another city to stay away from bad influences.
7. You have a lot of time to think in prison, so ask your Creator, your fellow prisoners and yourself a very important question: **"WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE ?"** then start planning TODAY on how to redesign your life and job around your purpose.
8. Everyone wants you to succeed in life and not return to prison, so **set your goals and expectations high!**
9. Upon your successful reentry and integration into the community, come back to prison as a **Mentor** and help others succeed.
10. When (Not if) you succeed, **"YOU ARE YOUR COMMUNITY'S NEW ROLE MODEL!"**

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Note: This article is Volume II (Issue 2) of the First Stop-Second Chance series for the ADOC Reentry and Pre Release Update by Bill Halligan.

References: 'The Way – A Story of Resolve in Returning to the Community and a New Life!' – Crime Stopper Publications® by John O'Malley.

- Volume I (Issue 12) – 'Can I be a Good Parent While I am Incarcerated?' – ADOC December (2008) Reentry and Pre Release Update.
- Volume II (Issue 1) – 'Do I have a Plan when I Leave Prison? (Part 1 of 2)' – ADOC January (2009) Reentry and Pre Release Update.